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In the Normal Department the regular three years diploma was conferred upon one man and thirty-one women. Those graduating with honor were

Margaret R. Weber, Huntington, Ind.  
 Kathryn H. Conklin, Oak Park, Ill.  
 Helen Hudson, Wausau, Wis.  
 Charlotte W. Calkins, Grand Rapids, Mich.  
 Mary H. Bennett, Evansville, Ind.  
 Esther M. Lowry, Seattle, Wash.

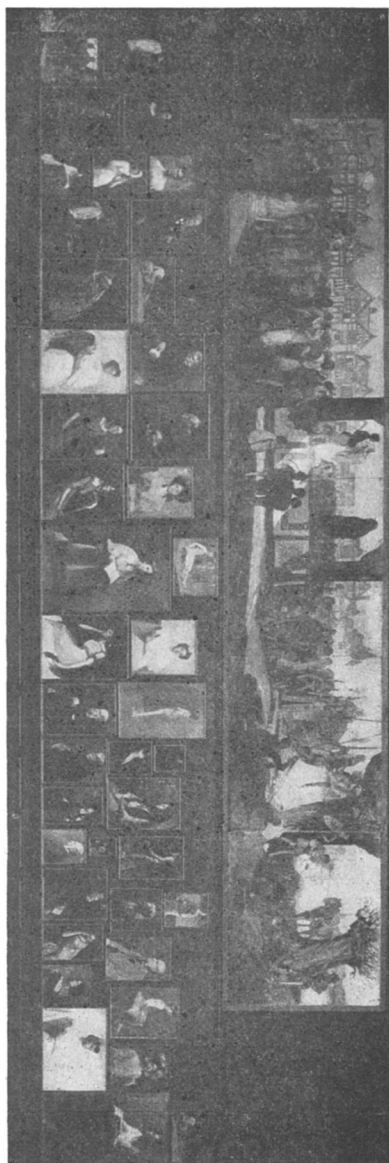
In the department of Architecture the four years diploma was conferred upon five young men and the two years certificate upon two young men. The Home Travelling Scholarship of \$250, offered by the Art Institute, was awarded March 17, 1908, to A. G. Wickerham of the class of 1908.

#### MURAL PAINTING IN THE SCHOOL

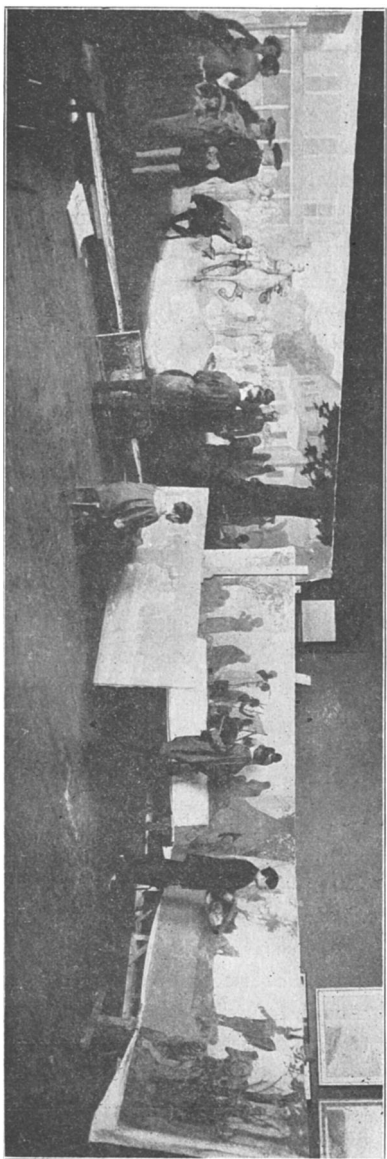
Perhaps the most remarkable and satisfactory development in the school during the last few years has been in the direction of composition, and especially of composition for mural decoration. It is well recognized that there is difficulty in getting the art student to produce actual pictures. Sharing the common human aversion to exerting his mental and inventive faculties, the art student likes best to stand before his living model and reproduce as nearly as he can the forms, tones and colors which he sees. In truth his difficulties are great enough to keep him intently and agreeably occupied. Hence in the art schools of the old world there are found students of ten or fifteen years standing, who make the most beautiful life studies, but who are totally unable to put figures together in a composition, and whose effort is therefore wholly wasted. There have always been classes in composition and picture making in the Art Institute, and efforts have been made to stimulate this study by prizes and special encouragement.

The solution of the difficulty appears now to be offering itself from unexpected quarters, namely from the influence of the illustration department, and from the opportunity to execute mural paintings for actual use. Students of illustration are naturally more willing to practice pictorial composition than academic students, because they perceive that it is an essential part of the business they have undertaken. They expect to make pictures. The studies of the illustrator in an art school are necessarily almost identical with those of the artist, with the modification that the illustrator entertains more clearly the practical aim. Hence when subjects of composition are given out by the instructors for general competition it is found that a great proportion of the competitors, even in highly ideal subjects, are members of the illustration classes. It is with much satisfaction that it has been found at the close of the last year that there are not only one or two, but thirty or forty advanced students who are capable of producing respectable figure and landscape compositions on a large scale.

A field has been found for such large compositions in the decoration of public schools, social settlements and occasionally of other public buildings. Competition with professional artists and decorators is avoided, and work is done only where it could not be contemplated otherwise. A small sum is raised, perhaps by entertainments by public school children or small subscriptions among teachers and friends, sufficient to pay for canvas, paint and models. The rooms to be decorated are inspected and measured by the teachers, the students put in their competitive designs, and the work is executed in the class rooms under the supervision of the instructors, this year Mr. Browne and Mr. Stevens.



ONE OF THE WALLS OF THE SCHOOL EXHIBITION OF 1907



ADVANCED COMPOSITION - Mural Painting, 1908

The largest work undertaken for the last year was for the Herman Felsenthal public school, Calumet Ave. and 41st St., where the subjects were from American history, and the largest panels measured  $24 \times 7\frac{1}{2}$  ft. Mural paintings were made also for Lincoln Centre, the Wilmette Country Club, the Lincoln school at Evanston, etc., besides many class problems. The decoration of the class lecture-room at the Art Institute is also now in progress, and here the department of sculpture under Mr. Mulligan, co-operates with the painters, designing caryatids to support the beams. The subjects in this case are different epochs of art, embracing Egyptian, Greek, Florentine, and Dutch subjects. Of course such practical problems are very stimulating to the students.

It ought to be said that the students are required to keep up their academic practice, and in almost every case the authors of the works named above worked upon them only in the afternoons, giving the morning hours to the severe practice of drawing and painting from life. There is no intention of neglecting perfection of execution, which after all is of the essence of art.

It is interesting to note that the National Sculpture Society, whose headquarters are in New York, includes in its membership eleven women, and that of these six are former students of the Art Institute and of Mr. Lorado Taft, namely; Bessie Potter Vonnob, Janet Scudder, Enid Yandell, Evelyn Beatrice Longman, Helen Mears and Carol Brooks MacNeil.

The summer school, which includes most of the studies of other terms, opens on Monday, June 29; excepting the Normal and Juvenile departments, which open July 6.

#### MUSEUM ATTENDANCE

The number of visitors at the Museum during the three months ending May 31, 1908, is shown in the following table:

14 Sundays,	- - -	39,555
26 Other free days,	-	84,520
52 Pay days,	- - -	16,878
92 Days,	- - -	<u>140,953</u>

The average attendance has been:

Sundays,	- - - -	2,825
Other free days,	- -	3,251
Pay days,	- - -	324

During the same period last year the total attendance was 133,052, showing an increase this year of 7,901.

The attendance of visitors to the Museum for the year has been as follows:

From June 1, 1907, to June 1, 1908.

Number of visitors, paid admissions,	30,074
Number of visitors on free days,	471,651
Number of visitors admitted free on membership tickets on other days,	- - -
	<u>48,564</u>
	550,289

Number of students, estimated by counting each student once a day during his term of attendance	- - -	<u>194,823</u>
Aggregate,	-	745,112

Average number of visitors on Wednesdays, free all day,	2,673
Average number of visitors on Saturdays, free all day,	-
	3,207
Average number of visitors on Sundays, open 1 to 5, free,	-
	2,867
Average number of paying visitors on other days,	- -
	147
Largest attendance in one day (Monday, Sept. 2, 1907),	5,861
Smallest attendance in one day (Tuesday, Dec. 24, 1907),	75